



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB0388

Requiring the Governor in fiscal year 2025 and each fiscal year thereafter to include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of at least \$1,000,000 for the Prescription Drug Affordability Fund which provides funding for the Board; and requiring the Board, under certain circumstances, to establish a process for setting upper payment limits for all purchases and payor reimbursements of prescription drug products in the State that the Board determines have led or will lead to affordability challenges.

FAVORABLE

February 6, 2024

TO: Finance Committee Chair Senator Pamela Beidle, Vice Chair Katherine Klaus

FROM: Lynn R Mortoro, member of Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network, Diocese of Maryland

DATE: February 6, 2024

Chair Beidle and members of the Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of this bill, SB0388

The Episcopal Church has a policy urging us to advocate for Health Care. Access to proper and affordable medication is absolutely necessary for care of all people..

As a retired nurse, I have seen many instances of inadequate health care and the need to choose between paying rent, food or medications. The medications which are needed for diabetic control, cardiac issues all get put aside costing the patient, family and community in lost wages and livelihood in addition to increased medical costs.

While the current Board has done wonderful work in efforts to set upper limits for payment for the drugs purchased by the State and Local governments, it is definitely time for that to be applied to every Marylander.

The Diocese of Maryland requests a **Favorable** vote